

REMARKS

Applicants wish to thank Examiner for the interview of this case. In view of the interview, Applicants provide this Amendment.

Status of the Claims

Following this Amendment, the pending claims are now claims 1-2, 4, 6, 10-11, 13, 15-17, 20-22 and 32-33. Claims 9 and 12 are cancelled herein. Claims 3, 5, 7-8, 14, and 18-19 were previously cancelled. In a requirement for restriction, Applicants elected the single subspecies drawn to MCM-22 and claims 23-31 were withdrawn.

RE: Claim Amendments

Claims 1 and 32, and the pending claims depending therefrom, have been amended to recite the limitations of claim 9. Also, these claims were amended to recite that the aromatic alkylation catalyst is a molecular sieve selected from a molecular sieve of the MCM-22 family. The amendment is supported by the specification as filed in the third sentence of paragraph [0034]. No new matter was added.

Accordingly, claim 9 was cancelled to be consistent with amended claim 1.

RE: New Claim 33

In accordance with Examiner's suggestions, new claim 33 was added which recites:

A process for preparing an alkylaromatic hydrocarbon composition comprising contacting a feedstock comprising an olefinic hydrocarbon mixture and an aromatic compound under alkylation conditions with an aromatic alkylation catalyst comprising a molecular sieve having an X-ray diffraction pattern including d-spacing maxima at 12.4 ± 0.25 , 6.9 ± 0.15 , 3.57 ± 0.07 and 3.42 ± 0.07 Angstroms selected from MCM-22, PSH-3, SSZ-25, ERB-1, ITQ-1, ITQ-2, MCM-36, MCM-49, MCM-56, said olefinic hydrocarbon mixture produced by oligomerizing an olefin selected from propene, butene and mixtures thereof over surface-

deactivated ZSM-23 and comprising at least 5% by weight of mono-olefin oligomers of the empirical formula:



wherein n is greater than or equal to 10, wherein said mono-olefin oligomers comprise at least 20% by weight of olefins having at least 12 carbon atoms and said olefins having at least 12 carbon atoms and an average of from 0.8 to 2.0 C₁-C₃ alkyl branches per carbon chain and no branches other than ethyl groups.

The support for this new claim may be found in paragraphs [0012], [0025], [0026] and [0034] in the specification as filed. No new matter was added.

Applicant submits that new claim 33 is patentable over the cited prior art of record.

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Applicants respectfully request entry of this Amendment. The instant application is now believed to be in order for allowance, and a speedy notice of allowance or another Office Action on the merits is respectfully requested. Applicants request a personal or telephone interview with Examiner to address any outstanding issues.

Respectfully submitted,

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